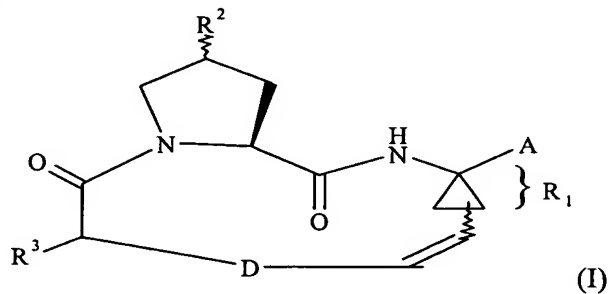
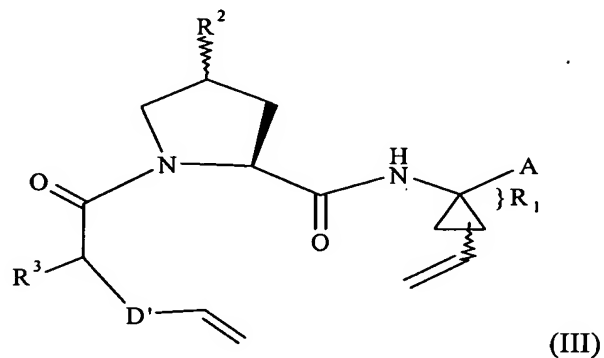


ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an improved process for the preparation of a macrocyclic compound of formula I



wherein R_1 , R^2 , R^3 , A and D have the meaning given in the claims; by a ring closure metathesis of the corresponding diene of formula III



wherein R_1 , R^2 , R^3 , A and D' have the meaning given in the claims; in the presence of a benzylidene ruthenium catalyst, wherein the phenyl group is substituted by a nitro group.